



**CLASSIFIED TELEGRAM**

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CV 40492

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TEMPER: REPORTS OF REACTIONS MAN ON STREET TO  
BRITISH ARRESTS AGREE HE REGARDS ENTIRE AFFAIRS AS A  
"SCHWEINEBERG." THIS OPINION GENERALLY SHARED BY POLI-  
TICIANS OF ALL SHADES EXCEPT SPD, DGB AND COMMIES.  
WHILE ALMOST EVERYONE AGREES THAT NAUMANN CIRCLE WAS  
PLOTTING IN VARIOUS WAYS AND THAT IT HAD CLOSE CONNEC-  
TIONS WITH FDP, THEY FEEL THAT BRITISH HAVE EXAGGERATED  
IMPORTANCE OF AFFAIR TO POINT OF RIDICULE AND THAT GERMAN  
AUTHORITIES COULD HAVE HANDLED ARRESTS IF PROOF OF SUB-  
VERSIVE ACTIVITY REALLY EXISTED. MORE IMPORTANT, HIGH  
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AND OF POLITICAL LEADERS CON-  
SIDER ARRESTS SLAP IN FACE OF WEST GERMAN PEOPLE AND  
ITS GOVERNMENT. THERE IS SOME FEELING THAT RELATIONS  
BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS OF FDP WILL NOW DETERIORATE  
FURTHER BUT THERE IS ALSO WIDESPREAD CONVICTION THAT RIGHT  
WING OF FDP WILL BE STRENGTHENED BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE  
WILL TEND ASSOCIATE THE PARTY'S DEFENSE OF ITSELF WITH A  
DEFENSE OF GERMAN HONOR. EVEN HEINZ KUEHN, SHREWD SPD  
LANDTAG FRAKTION SECRETARY, SHARES THIS VIEW AND REGRETS  
ACTION. MOST SPD LEADERS ARE PROBABLY PLEASED WITH  
DEVELOPMENT HOWEVER THOSE COMMENTING TO US CONSIDER IT  
TOO EARLY AS YET JUDGE EFFECT OF ARRESTS ON RATIFICATION  
CONTRACTUALS, THOUGH CENTER PARTY SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED BE-  
LIEF FDP WILL NOW PROVE MORE DIFFICULT ABOUT RATIFICATION.

OPINIONS REGARDING MOTIVATION BRITISH ARRESTS ARE  
VERY NUMEROUS BUT ALL AGREE THERE MUST BE MORE BEHIND  
THEM THAN SIMPLE DESIRE CURB SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS. MOST  
POPULAR THEORY AT MOMENT IS APPARENTLY THE FDP'S THESIS  
THAT BRITISH ARE TRYING TO PREVENT AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR  
GERMANY ARMY AND CLOSER AMERICAN-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP. A  
SECOND RELATED THEORY IS THAT ARRESTS WERE MEANT AS WARN-  
ING TO FRENCH THAT EUROPEAN ARMY CONCEPT SHOULD NOT BE  
DROPPED IN FAVOR OF NATIONAL ARMIES. WE ARE TOLD BY CDU  
SPOKESMAN THAT THIS THEORY HELD BY MANY CDU LANDTAG  
MEMBERS. THIRD POPULAR THEORY IS THAT ARRESTS WERE

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~~CARRIED OUT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT OCCUPATION WILL REMAIN IN FORCE  
UNLESS AND UNTIL CONTRACTUALS RATIFIED. FOURTH THEORY IS THAT  
BRITISH WANTED TO COMPLETELY DISCREDIT RIGHT WING OF FDP AND OR TO  
PROMOTE A CDU-SPD COALITION.~~

REGARDING HICOG PUBLIC OPINION POLL, PREVAILING OPINION IS  
THAT ITS CONCLUSIONS ARE "VOELLIGES QUATSCH". GENERAL ATTITUDE IS  
THAT NO REAL IMPORTANCE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO SUCH POLL IN VIEW OF  
WEIGHTY EVIDENCE OF A CONTRADICTORY NATURE. REGARDING MOTIVATION  
FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OF POLL, OPINIONS DIVIDED AS TO WHETHER IT  
WAS STUPID BLUNDER OR WAS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY CERTAIN ANTI-GERMAN  
GROUPS WITHIN HICOG TO DESTROY INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN WEST  
GERMANY.

CHALKER

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